United Nations A/54/929

General Assembly

Distr.: General
29 June 2000
English
Original: Spanish

Fifty-fourth session
Agenda items 49 (b), 59, 60, 61, 76, 80, 82, 97 (a)-(e), 98 (b), 99 (c)-(e), 100 (a)-(d), 104, 106, 108, 109, 114, 116 (a) and (b), and 161

United Nations reform: measures and proposals: the Millennium Assembly of the United Nations

Strengthening of the United Nations system

Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

Restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields

General and complete disarmament

Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects

Consolidation of the regime established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco)

Macroeconomic policy questions: high-level international intergovernmental consideration of financing for development; financing of development, including net transfer of resources between developing and developed countries; trade and development; science and technology for development; external debt crisis and development

Sectoral policy questions: business and development

Sustainable development and international economic cooperation: women in development; human resources development; international migration and development, including the question of the convening of a United Nations conference on international migration and development to address migration issues

00-51406 (E) 180700 190700

Environment and sustainable development: implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21; International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction; Convention on Biological Diversity; protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind

Globalization and interdependence

Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family

International drug control

Advancement of women

Elimination of racism and racial discrimination

Human rights questions: implementation of human rights instruments; human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Review of the Statute of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal

Letter dated 21 June 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the Cartagena de Indias Declaration Rio Group 2000: Commitment for the Millennium, issued by the Heads of State and Government of the Rio Group at the conclusion of the summit meeting held in the city of Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, on 15 and 16 June 2000 (see annex).

On behalf of the States members of the Rio Group, I should be grateful if you could arrange for the text of the above-mentioned Declaration to be issued as a document of the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly under agenda items 49 (b), 59, 60, 61, 76, 80, 82, 97 (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), 98 (b), 99 (c), (d), (e), 100 (a), (b), (c), (d), 104, 106, 108, 109, 114, 116 (a), (b) and 161 and circulated to delegations.

(*Signed*) Alfonso **Valdivieso**
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
Pro tempore secretariat of the Rio Group

Introductory note

The Heads of State and Government, meeting in the city of Cartagena de Indias, on the occasion of the fourteenth summit of Heads of State and Government of the Permanent Mechanism for Consultation and Concerted Political Action — Rio Group — hereby adopt the "Cartagena de Indias Declaration: Commitment for the Millennium".

The Heads of State and Government have decided to present this document as the region's contribution to the agenda of the Summit and shall agree on the manner in which the positions contained in the Declaration shall be jointly expressed in the various working groups.

Cartagena de Indias, 14 June 2000

Cartagena de Indias Declaration

Rio Group 2000: Commitment for the Millennium

1. We, the Heads of State and Government of the Rio Group, which has now been expanded to include Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua, have gathered in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, on 15 and 16 June 2000 as representatives of our peoples to continue the process of consultations and high-level concertation of political action to promote the ideals of the maintenance of peace, strengthening of democracy and promotion of sustainable development in our region and, in particular, to contribute to the preparation of the Millennium Summit to be convened by the United Nations next September.

2. The Millennium Summit affords us an historic opportunity to promote concrete initiatives for building an international system that offers greater justice, security and fairness for all, through a package of measures based on the values of cooperation and international solidarity. We recognize that the main responsibility for strengthening the United Nations lies with its Members and we are confident that the results of the Millennium Summit will make a tangible contribution to the achievement of the Organization's aims and the strengthening of its capacity to respond to the growing challenges and needs of our peoples and nations.

3. We begin the new century committed to the consolidation and strengthening of representative democracy as a system of government and to the promotion of its values and defence of its institutions. This commitment guides the actions of our Governments in both their domestic and foreign policies. In this connection, we reiterate the importance of strengthening the rule of law and political pluralism, as well as of the responsible and ethical discharge of public duties. We also stress the need to promote the effective and responsible participation of citizens and civil organizations in our nations' institutional life, as an increasingly necessary contribution to the debate on matters of public interest.

4. The phenomenon of globalization has brought with it challenges and opportunities for the countries of the region. In recent years, the level of trade, financial flows and economic integration has soared dramatically. However, we still face the major challenges of reducing economic and social inequalities and ensuring that the benefits of globalization are fully shared by all the peoples of the region. We must seek creative ways of participating more actively in the process of globalization by taking advantage of new technologies, strengthening our cultural identity and projecting it to the rest of the world.

5. We reaffirm our commitment to respect the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international law and, in that connection, wish to place on record the following views on issues that are of prime importance to our region.

Commitment to the human dimension of development

6. We are of the view that economic growth should be used to reduce economic inequality in our nations and the high incidence of poverty that currently affects broad sectors of our societies. To this end, we intend to allocate adequate resources to social expenditure, and especially to the development of human capital.

7. In order to meet social needs and to ensure equality of opportunities, we must increase the rate of sustainable economic growth and raise the productivity of our economies, within a favourable external environment. We recognize the need to fund at one and the same time social protection networks and investments in human capital and infrastructure. In order to do so, higher levels of international cooperation are needed.

8. We consider the expansion of international trade flows to be essential and reject protectionist measures by the industrialized countries, particularly in the agricultural sector, which are not in keeping with the trade liberalization policy being pursued by the countries of our region. Access to markets must therefore be guaranteed and the domestic subsidies and subventions granted by the developed countries eliminated so that Latin America could increase the level of its exports, which would in turn help to create jobs and improve social conditions.

9. We also appeal for a just and lasting solution to the problem of the external indebtedness of our economies, particularly those of the highly indebted countries of our region, so that debt would cease to be an obstacle to economic and social development and the most pressing needs of their populations could be met.

10. We consider universal access to basic education and a substantial improvement in its quality to be the pillars of our commitment to social development and a fundamental basis for productive human development and democracy. We also consider it important to strengthen occupational training programmes and to promote the training of human resources in the use of advanced scientific and technological resources. This task, together with the creation of more opportunities for productive employment, will be the basis for increased social and cultural participation by our young people.

Commitment to multilateralism

11. We are of the view that multilateralism promotes greater symmetry in international relations and contributes to transparency and to the development of equitable rules of the game, which would permit us to tackle global problems in a more timely manner and with greater effectiveness. We therefore intend to strengthen the multilateral institutions and existing mechanisms for consultation and concerted political action as our contribution to the development of a more democratic and participatory international system.

12. We consider broad and democratic participation in multilateral institutions to be an important part of an equitable and balanced approach to global problems. We also consider it essential to strengthen regional forums and to develop mechanisms for cooperation between them and the global multilateral organizations, while respecting their respective areas of competence.

Priority issues on the global agenda

13. As the world's first densely populated region to be free of nuclear weapons, with the signing of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, we maintain that nuclear disarmament is the responsibility of all States, primarily those which possess nuclear weapons, and that it is incumbent on the international community, represented in the United Nations, to take specific steps to promote the non-proliferation and the elimination of nuclear weapons. We express our satisfaction with the outcome of the last Review

Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which contained an unequivocal commitment to the complete elimination of such weapons, and we reaffirm our support for the initiative on a New Agenda for Disarmament.

14. In our hemispheres, we have developed such instruments as the Inter-American Convention Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and other Related Materials, and we have undertaken to promote international agreement on this issue in the framework of the negotiations of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and to build on those activities on the occasion of the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, to be held in the year 2001.

15. We urge all States which have not yet done so to ratify as soon as possible the Ottawa Convention to ensure the complete eradication of anti-personnel mines and we renew our commitment to the rehabilitation of victims and to the clearance of mines in our region, as well as to the goal of transforming our hemisphere into a zone free of anti-personnel mines. We agree that the use of excessively cruel or inhuman weapons, particularly those which are home-made, should be prohibited in conflicts of any kind.

16. We agree that there should be a broad approach to the issue of human rights which covers civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights and which is based on respect for the dignity of persons and protection of their fundamental rights. To that end, we intend to strengthen regional institutions that promote and protect human rights and to promote a culture of human rights in the hemisphere.

17. We reaffirm that the approach to the question of human rights should be based on the principles of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity and that human rights issues should be dealt with in an atmosphere of cooperation and with the strictest respect for the norms and principles of international law.

18. We intend to contribute to the progressive development of the international law on the criminal responsibility of the individual for the commission of certain international crimes, as provided for in the Statute of the International Criminal Court.

19. We are committed to fully respect the principles and norms of international humanitarian law and we appeal to all parties in any type of armed conflict to refrain from involving the civilian population, particularly children. We consider unacceptable any action taken to address situations of emergency that is outside of the framework of the Charter of the United Nations, in accordance with the principles governing humanitarian assistance agreed upon by the General Assembly.

20. We reject all forms of intolerance, including xenophobia, racism and racial discrimination, and we are committed to promoting and protecting the rights of the most vulnerable groups of society. In that regard, we attach great importance to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, which is due to be convened in the year 2001.

21. We reaffirm that it is incumbent on the countries that send and receive migrants to strengthen their cooperation in the field of migration and to guarantee

the full enjoyment of their human rights, especially the right to life and to dignified, just and non-discriminatory treatment.

22. We reaffirm that full gender equality is an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and we therefore pledge to mainstream the gender perspective into the public policies of our Governments.

23. We have adopted a comprehensive approach to the global problem of drugs, based on the principle of shared responsibility, and we believe that a determined effort on the part of the international community is needed to make this approach truly global, as the international community agreed in 1998 at the twentieth special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to the global problem of drugs.

24. In this connection, we have adopted at the regional level a multilateral evaluation mechanism, of an intergovernmental nature, which is an objective and balanced instrument that takes into account the special characteristics of the global problem of drugs in the region. We now propose a period of review to permit an in-depth analysis of the background and results and we invite the United Nations to keep in mind the aforementioned mechanism with a view to the future elaboration of similar arrangements at a global level.

25. We subscribe to the Inter-American Convention against Corruption and are working towards its implementation and towards the elaboration of a similar instrument within the framework of the United Nations. At the same time, we are intensifying our efforts to combat the laundering of money that represents the proceeds of various crimes.

26. We reaffirm our support for the principles of sustainable development agreed upon in Agenda 21 and the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, as well as in the Santa Cruz de la Sierra Plan of Action, including, in particular, the principle of shared but differentiated responsibility, and we strongly urge the developed countries to meet their targets for the reduction of greenhouse gases by ratifying the Kyoto Protocol by the year 2002. In this connection, we attach particular importance to the Sixth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in The Hague in November 2000, and stress the need for early regulation of the implementation mechanisms under the Kyoto Protocol, particularly the clean development mechanism.

27. We reaffirm the urgent need to mainstream environmentally friendly technologies and to develop sustainable production systems. In order to achieve this objective, we shall continue to work towards the strengthening of our scientific and technological capacities and shall promote specific international cooperation initiatives, including initiatives to facilitate the transfer of technology.

28. We recognize that the expansion of trade flows and conservation of the environment are complementary objectives that contribute to the achievement of sustainable development and we therefore reject the adoption of unilateral measures which, under the pretext of concern for the environment, are transformed into unjustified restrictions on trade. We also reject the adoption of arbitrary and unilateral measures which are inconsistent with the multilateral trading system and based on labour-related criteria that restrict access by our products to other markets.

Reform of the international financial system

29. Because of the extraordinary expansion of the international financial markets, which is characterized by the proliferation of its agents and instruments and by the volatility of short-term capital flows, efforts at the national, regional and global levels should focus on the prevention of external crises.

30. At the national level, we agree on the importance of promoting responsible macroeconomic policies based on solid public finances, prudent monetary policies and suitable exchange regimes, in order to take advantage of the benefits of an increasingly integrated international economy. This will permit the achievement of stable long-term growth, thereby reducing the vulnerability of the countries of the region and helping to prevent both external imbalances and fluctuations in production and employment.

31. The changes that have occurred in the global financial system in recent years make it necessary to reform the institutions responsible for the regulation of the system. At the same time, we propose that these institutions should make additional efforts to disseminate and promote in all countries the application of internationally accepted standards in such areas as banking and financial supervision and regulation, as the main pillars of the stability of international financial markets.

32. One of the key objectives of the strengthening of the international financial architecture should be the creation of a framework that is conducive to the stability of financial and exchange markets, and within which, in extreme situations, adequate financial assistance is provided to countries that are in the process of adjusting their balance of payments situation.

33. We consider that the management of critical situations depends on the availability and timely provision of international liquidity to prevent the spread of financial crises and reduce their negative impact. International financial institutions should improve their credit facilities through transparent, agreed upon and non-discriminatory mechanisms that help countries in difficulty to return to solvency and regain access to international financial markets. We also urge the private financial sector to play an active and constructive role in the prevention and resolution of crises.

34. We propose to strengthen the international financial system and at the same time further develop regional and subregional financial institutions by taking advantage of their comparative advantages, ensuring more effective coordination of their activities and avoiding duplication of functions.

35. We stress the importance of the high-level meeting on finance for development to be convened by the United Nations in 2001, which will bring together the international community and the main international financial and trade organizations. This forum provides an excellent opportunity to adopt the measures necessary to continue to promote the reform and strengthening of the international financial system.

36. In addition to having the capacity to prevent and to deal effectively with external crises, the new international financial system should provide a suitable framework for access to long-term resources and technical assistance for economic and social development as well as provide financing for social and infrastructural projects. This is necessary in order to reduce poverty, raise the level of well-being of

our societies and strengthen support policies and social security networks, with a view to substantially improving living conditions in our region.

United Nations A/54/930–S/2000/637

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
30 June 2000

Original: English

General Assembly
Fifty-fourth session
Agenda items 43, 44 and 89

Security Council
Fifty-fifth year

The situation in the Middle East

Question of Palestine

Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories

Identical letters dated 29 June 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

In follow-up to our letter of 19 June 2000 (A/54/924-S/2000/600), regarding recent and ongoing Israeli threats of force against the Palestinian people, I have been instructed to bring to your attention reports of unusual military movements and preparations being carried out by the Israeli forces in the occupied Gaza Strip. Such preparations are clearly related to the verbal threats of force that have been made by Israeli officials in recent weeks, as they involve the obvious fortification of Israeli military posts in the area.

While serious efforts are being exerted to break the stalemate in the peace process towards a negotiated settlement of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, Israeli efforts instead appear to be highly focused on military preparations and activities. Israeli troops have been sighted on the coast of the Gaza Strip carrying out amphibious landing exercises and manoeuvres with the support of military helicopters. Moreover, there have been reports of the movement and redistribution of both light and heavy equipment and weaponry around the illegal Israeli settlements in the Gaza Strip as well as additional fortification around those settlements. In addition, Israeli personnel have been sighted installing camera equipment for obvious monitoring purposes in the area.

These activities come in the wake of the threats made by Israeli officials, including military and political officials, which were referred to in the above-mentioned letter. Similar to verbal threats of force against the Palestinian people, these kinds of unusual and intense military preparations and manoeuvres serve only

00-51202 (E) 300600

to heighten tensions between the two sides. Moreover, these actions negatively affect the peace process and make increasingly difficult the negotiations between the two sides.

I wish to reiterate that while the Palestinian side remains committed to the peace process, the Palestinian leadership cannot ignore this Israeli mobilization of force in the occupied territory. The international community should be aware of such military preparations and mobilization and, in this regard, should exert efforts to ensure stability in the area and to promote adherence to international law and norms by Israel, the occupying Power, towards a just and peaceful settlement between the two sides.

I would be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of this letter distributed as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 43, 44 and 89, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Feda Abdelhady **Nasser**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

United Nations A/54/931–S/2000/638

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
29 June 2000

Original: English

General Assembly
Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 43
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Fifty-fifth year

Letter dated 29 June 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On 24 May 2000 Israel withdrew its forces from Southern Lebanon, in full accordance with Security Council resolution 425 (1978). The withdrawal was confirmed by the Secretary-General in his report to the Security Council dated 16 June 2000 (S/2000/590 and Corr.1). The Security Council, in turn, welcomed the report and endorsed its conclusion, in the Council's Presidential statement dated 18 June 2000 (S/PRST/2000/21). As is widely known, Security Council resolution 425 (1978), in addition to calling for the withdrawal of Israeli forces, also calls for the restoration of international peace and security and the return of the effective authority of the Government of Lebanon in the area.

Regrettably, the Government of Lebanon has, to date, refused to fulfil its responsibilities under resolution 425 (1978) and to establish its effective authority in the area. As a result, the area is witnessing an escalating wave of violence on the Lebanese side of the border, directed against Israel. Objects hurled over the border at passing Israelis, including farmers working in their fields, attempts to penetrate into Israel, along with a host of other targeted provocations have become commonplace along the southern border of Lebanon. The Government of Lebanon has made no attempt to prevent or control such incidents. Indeed, the Lebanese army has not even taken up positions in the area. For that matter, Lebanon has yet to disarm the militia groups operating in its territory.

This regrettable situation came to a climax on 24 June 2000, when dozens of demonstrators gathered beside the "Fatma gate", on the Lebanese side of the international border between Israel and Lebanon, close to the Israeli town of Metulah. The demonstration turned violent as heavy stones and objects were hurled over the border, aimed at Israelis on the other side. In addition, there were repeated attempts to climb over the fence and illegally infiltrate into the Israeli side of the border.

Two individuals from the Lebanese side actually penetrated into Israel. When they pressed further despite repeated warnings, Israeli soldiers were faced with no alternative but to use force to stop them. Clearly, this incident would never have

00-51166 (E) 300600

occurred had the two not illegally infiltrated into Israeli territory, and proceeded against IDF warnings.

In refusing to fulfil its obligations pursuant to resolution 425 (1978), Lebanon is thereby failing in its basic international duty, pursuant to the Charter of the United Nations, to ensure that its sovereign territory does not serve to harm the territory of a neighbouring State.

Now that Israel has withdrawn its forces, it remains for the other parties, chiefly the Government of Lebanon, to fulfil their remaining responsibilities under resolution 425 (1978). The Government of Lebanon is required to take all necessary steps to prevent the continued flare-ups, infiltrations and provocations, and to assume full responsibility over Lebanon. That includes doing everything in its power to end acts of hostility against Israel and Israelis across the border.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 43, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Aaron **Jacob**
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires, a.i.

United Nations A/54/932–S/2000/644

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
30 June 2000

Original: English

General Assembly
Fifty-fourth session
Agenda items 43, 44 and 89

Security Council
Fifty-fifth year

The situation in the Middle East

Question of Palestine

Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories

Letter dated 30 June from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions, I wish urgently to call your attention to a recent statement by the Israeli Attorney General, Mr. Eliyakim Rubinstein, regarding the applicability of Security Council resolution 242 (1967).

In a legal opinion issued on 29 June 2000, the Israeli Attorney General stated that United Nations resolutions calling for the withdrawal of Israel from occupied territories — namely, Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973) — are not applicable to the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip. Other Israeli officials have expressed similar positions in this regard.

The Palestinian side maintains that such positions represent a gross violation of international law and the principle of inadmissibility of acquisition of territory by war, which is one of the basic tenets of resolution 242 (1967). In addition, I wish to highlight article I of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements, which was signed by the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization on 13 September 1993 in Washington, D.C. Article I clearly defines the "Aim of the negotiations" between the two sides in the peace process as follows:

> "The aim of the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations within the current Middle East peace process is, among other things, to establish a Palestinian Interim Self-Government Authority, the elected Council (the "Council"), for the Palestinian people in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, for a transitional period not exceeding five years, leading to a permanent settlement based on Security

00-51284 (E) 030700

Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973). It is understood that the interim arrangements are an integral part of the whole peace process and that the negotiations on the permanent status will lead to the implementation of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973)."

This specific aim and principle was repeatedly reaffirmed in subsequent agreements reached by the two sides. Accordingly, the recently declared Israeli position represents a complete departure from the very principles upon which the peace process was established. Such a position clearly constitutes a gross violation of the agreements reached and a serious threat to the integrity and continuity of this peace process.

We hold the Israeli side totally responsible for the destructive impact that such dramatic positions could have on the Palestinian-Israeli peace process, and we demand full compliance by Israel with international law and the agreements reached, particularly the implementation of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973).

I would be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of this letter distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under items 43, 44 and 89, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Feda Abdelhady **Nasser**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

United Nations A/54/933

General Assembly

Distr.: General
5 July 2000

Original: English

Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 20 (b)
Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: special economic assistance to individual countries or regions

Letter dated 27 June 2000 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you a copy of the statement issued on 22 June 2000 by the Ministry of External Relations on the resumption of attacks on various areas in the Sudan by the rebel movement, the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A).

This resumption of attacks presents yet another salient proof of the rebel movement's total disregard for world public opinion with respect to its call for enabling the humanitarian agencies and organizations to deliver relief assistance to the needy people in those areas. It also constitutes total disrespect of the appreciation you have expressed for the declaration of the Government on 29 April 2000 of a ceasefire throughout the Sudan and the trust you have expressed in the SPLM/A extending this humanitarian ceasefire so as to contribute to the creation of an enabling environment for humanitarian operations in the country.

I should like to assure you of my Government's pledge to continue to exert all possible efforts towards the realization of a lasting peace despite all the difficulties and obstacles, while it reserves its right to repulse such attacks launched by the rebel movement in conformity with its duties and obligations for the protection of the lives and property of its citizens.

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its attachment as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 20 (b).

(*Signed*) Elfatih **Erwa**
Permanent Representative

00-51868 (E) 120700

Annex to the letter dated 27 June 2000 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic and English]

Statement by the Ministry of External Relations on the rebel movement's resumption of attacks on various areas in the south

1. Once again the rebel movement has resumed its breaching of the ceasefire, which it declared on 8 May 2000, by launching attacks on various parts of (great) Bahr Elghazal State where it attacked Gogrial, Aweil and Kuajine on Tuesday, 20 June, and on Wednesday, 21 June 2000. The Government forces were compelled to retaliate and drive away the attacking forces in protection of the lives and property of the citizens.

2. This behaviour comes as salient proof of the movement's disregard for world public opinion, and confirms its disrespect for its declaration of a ceasefire for humanitarian reasons, to enable non-governmental and international organizations to deliver relief assistance to the needy people in those areas.

3. Once more the Ministry of External Relations would like to draw attention to the movement's lack of seriousness about its declarations and its attempt to realize a military victory that could strengthen its negotiating position. It is for that reason that the assaults have coincided with its announcement to return to the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) talks.

4. The Government of the Sudan once again calls upon the world community, IGAD member countries, the IGAD partners forum and all the forces supporting the rebel movement to condemn and decry the irresponsible behaviour of the movement, which it has continued to exercise in an unprecedented ploy and disregard of the calls of the world community.

5. The Government of the Sudan reiterates that it reserves its right to repulse the attacks launched by the rebel movement, without affecting its unreserved commitment to the declared ceasefire and its pledge to work towards realizing a lasting peace despite all the difficulties and obstacles.

United Nations A/54/934

General Assembly

Distr.: General
5 July 2000

Original: English

Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 20 (b)
Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: special economic assistance to individual countries or regions

Letter dated 30 June 2000 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, and further to my letter dated 27 June 2000, I have the honour to transmit to you a cable message from Mustafa Osman Ismail, Minister of External Relations, on the violation by the rebel movement, the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Army, of the ceasefire, which it declared on 8 May 2000.

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its attachment as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 20 (b).

(*Signed*) Elfatih Mohamed Ahmed **Erwa**
Permanent Representative

00-51875 (E) 130700 130700

Annex to the letter dated 30 June 2000 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic]

I have the honour to refer to the statement on the rebel movement's renewed violation of the ceasefire it proclaimed on 8 May 2000 in many parts of the greater Bahr al-Ghazal region that was issued by the Ministry for External Relations of the Sudan on 22 June 2000 and transmitted to you by the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations on 27 June 2000 (A/54/933, annex).

I regret to inform you that the repeated attacks recently launched by the rebel movement have resulted in its seizure of the town of Gogrial in the Bahr al-Ghazal region. You are well aware of the vulnerable humanitarian situation in the area and of the repercussions it will have for all districts in Bahr al-Ghazal, as was the case with the developments that took place in the first quarter of 1998, just as you are aware of the human catastrophe produced by similar incidents such as the attack launched by the rebel movement on the town of Wau and other areas in Bahr al-Ghazal.

Although the Government had announced its decision for a ceasefire in all parts of the Sudan for humanitarian reasons and for the purpose of allowing the humanitarian organizations safe access to affected citizens, in its announcements the rebel movement had nevertheless continued to restrict the ceasefire to the Bahr al-Ghazal region. The movement's violation of the commitments it gave to the international community with respect to this area alone will therefore have far-reaching and complex implications for the humanitarian situation in the entire region.

I should also like to refer to your statement concerning the ongoing fighting in this area, in which the two parties are equated with each other. We can nevertheless affirm that the Government of the Sudan is certain that all the international agencies and humanitarian organizations participating in Operation Lifeline Sudan and all the non-governmental organizations operating in the Bahr al-Ghazal region are fully aware of the fact that the rebel movement had continued to plan for a resumption of the fighting, had in fact begun it some time before and had persisted in this through a number of attempted attacks before the fall of Gogrial.

The Government is therefore anxious to bring the record of the facts relating to the recent events in the Bahr al-Ghazal region to your attention and to that of international public opinion. It will thence be possible to identify the party that would, God forbid, cause another human catastrophe in the Bahr al-Ghazal region as a result of the rebel movement's violation of the ceasefire. The international community can also thus meet its responsibility to bring all possible pressure to bear on the rebel movement so as to induce it to desist from such irresponsible actions and to abide by its undertakings and commitments to maintain the ceasefire so that the United Nations humanitarian organizations can have safe and unimpeded access to the people affected in the region.

The Government of the Sudan would like to affirm its sovereign and legitimate right to respond to the rebel movement's violation of the ceasefire in order to defend the safety of its citizens and territory by all legitimate means.

In closing, I should like to assure you of the Government's commitment and resolve to proceed towards the achievement of a just and lasting peace.

(*Signed*) Mustafa Osman **Ismail**
Minister of External Relations

United Nations A/54/935

General Assembly

Distr.: General
8 July 2000
English
Original: French

Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 116 (b)
Human rights questions: Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Letter dated 30 June 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention the statement on the sentencing of Messrs. Statkevich and Shchukin, issued on 28 June 2000 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 116 (b).

(*Signed*) Antonio **Monteiro**
Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations

00-52329 (E) 120700 120700

Annex to the letter dated 30 June 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Statement on the sentencing of Messrs. Statkevich and Shchukin, issued on 28 June 2000 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union

The European Union deplores the suspended prison sentences imposed on 19 June on Mr. Statkevich, Chairman of the Belarus Social Democratic Party, and Mr. Shchukin. These sentences leave them at liberty, which the European Union notes, but threaten to prevent them from participating in the forthcoming elections in Belarus.

These sentences, which follow that imposed on Mr. Chiguir, the former Prime Minister, and the administrative measures which prevented the Belarus Social Democratic Party from holding its annual conference under normal conditions, again demonstrate the reality of the obstacles which restrict the activities of political figures and parties belonging to the opposition.

Fair and democratic elections cannot be organized against such a background. The European Union, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Council of Europe have jointly asserted the need, as one of four major conditions, for a period of "political truce" to allow elections to be planned, organized and held in acceptable conditions. Recently, President Lukashenko himself publicly voiced his support for such a proposal during a plenary meeting of the "national dialogue" initiated by the Government.

For this reason the European Union urges the Belarus authorities, if they really want the parliamentary elections to be acceptable to the European institutions and the international community, to take — while there is still time — all the necessary measures to create the basic climate of confidence without which free and fair elections will be impossible, for example, by:

Allowing recently sentenced political figures, in particular Messrs. Chiguir and Statkevich, to participate in the forthcoming elections;

Releasing those who are still detained;

Permitting the activity of opposition political parties and non-governmental organizations, free trade unions and the independent press, which still too frequently suffer harassment, particularly in the provinces;

Permitting the exercise of individual freedoms, civil liberties and trade union freedom;

Granting all parties, including opposition parties, the access to mass media that is commonplace in any democracy;

Allowing representatives of all the parties, including opposition parties, to participate in local, regional and national electoral commissions;

Opening a real dialogue between the Government in power and the opposition parties, as recommended in the final declaration of the OSCE Summit in Istanbul.

Only if concrete and meaningful decisions were to be swiftly taken in these different areas could the European Union, together with the other European institutions, the OSCE and the Council of Europe, decide to send observers to these elections.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated countries Cyprus, Malta and Turkey, and the European Free Trade Association countries members of the European Economic Area align themselves with this statement.

United Nations A/54/936–S/2000/661

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
8 July 2000

Original: English

General Assembly
Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 43
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Fifty-fifth year

Letter dated 6 July 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I wish to call your attention to a new wave of hostile acts against Israel and Israelis, perpetrated from the Lebanese side of the border and given free rein by the Government of Lebanon. A number of recent Lebanese violations are listed herewith in the annex to the present document. In sum, after the withdrawal of Israeli forces, Lebanon has played host to a wide range of such assaults. Some have targeted unarmed Israelis and even foreign workers in northern farms from across the border, while others have been aimed at Israeli jeeps and convoys, highlighted by intermittent attempts to penetrate or infiltrate the border.

Just yesterday, in the early afternoon, an Israeli soldier near the Phatma Gate was pelted in the skull with stones hurled from the Lebanese side. He suffered serious internal bleeding in the head and is currently hospitalized.

These incidents constitute Lebanese violations of Security Council resolution 425 (1978). The resolution calls not only for the withdrawal of Israeli forces, but also for the restoration of international peace and security and the return of the effective authority of the Lebanese Government in the area. And yet, in violation of these last two provisions, the Government of Lebanon continues to host a series of hostile assaults against the Israeli side of the border from its territory, acting in no way to prevent, restrain or even discourage any such incident. Moreover, Lebanon has thus far failed to deploy its army in the area and to disarm the militia groups, including the terrorist group Hizballah, which participated in some of the attacks.

Israel has withdrawn its forces from Southern Lebanon, in full accordance with resolution 425 — a withdrawal confirmed by the Secretary-General (S/2000/590), whose confirmation was, in turn, endorsed by the Security Council (S/PRST/2000/21). We now call upon the other parties, chiefly the Government of Lebanon, to fulfil their remaining responsibilities under resolution 425. That entails putting an end to these violations of Israeli sovereignty; establishing, at long last, effective Lebanese authority in the area; and acting to bring peace and security to our common border.

00-52298 (E) 100700

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its attachment circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 43, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ambassador Yehuda **Lancry**
Permanent Representative

Annex to the letter dated 6 July 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Lebanese violations

28 June 2000 — At 1800 hours five individuals from the Lebanese side of the border, two of them armed, hurled objects towards an Israel Defence Forces (IDF) near the Phatma Gate on the Israeli side.

28 June — At 1930 hours the same individuals on the Lebanese side pelted the IDF post with a new barrage of objects a second time.

28 June — At 1954 hours several people from the Lebanese side hurled objects towards an IDF post situated beside the Phatma Gate, then threw building blocks on an IDF vehicle that arrived at the scene.

29 June — At 0935 hours two individuals from the Lebanese side stood next to an IDF post on the Israeli side near the Phatma Gate and began to hurl objects at the post.

29 June — At 1234 hours an individual hurled objects at IDF soldiers stationed at the Phatma Gate.

29 June — At 1416 hours two individuals from the Lebanese side threw objects at an IDF post near the Phatma Gate.

29 June — At 1448 hours a vehicle bearing Hizballah flags drove past the Phatma Gate on the Lebanese side while thrusting objects at IDF soldiers across the border.

29 June — At 1951 hours five people from the Lebanese side of the border threw stones at IDF soldiers stationed at the Phatma Gate.

29 June — At 2031 hours four individuals from the Lebanese side hurled objects at IDF soldiers south of the Phatma Gate.

29 June — At 2042 hours four people from the Lebanese side of the border hurled objects towards the Israeli side of Phatma Gate.

29 June — At 2137 hours 10 people on the Lebanese side of the border at the Phatma Gate threw objects towards the Israeli side.

29 June — At 2230 hours four individuals from the Lebanese side attacked a group of IDF soldiers stationed on the Israeli side of the Phatma Gate with a barrage of stones.

30 June — At 1138 hours two people on the Lebanese side threw objects towards IDF soldiers stationed on the Israeli side of the border in the vicinity of the Phatma Gate.

30 June — At 1152 hours 40 people on the Lebanese side, some armed, attacked a group of Israeli soldiers with objects hurled over the border just south of the Phatma Gate.

30 June — At 1300 hours two people standing on the Lebanese side threw objects at Thai workers on Israeli farmland adjacent to the Phatma Gate.

30 June — At 1325 hours 25 people standing on the Lebanese side of the border near the Phatma Gate threw stones at an IDF post inside Israeli territory.

30 June — At 1558 hours some 150 people on the Lebanese side of the border threw stones at a civilian car parked on the Israeli side of the border near the Phatma Gate.

Ten minutes later 450 people, some of whom were carrying a Hizballah flag, hurled objects at IDF soldiers stationed at that location.

30 June — At 1603 hours four armed persons wearing unidentifiable uniforms threw objects at IDF soldiers on the Israeli side of the border at B26 (located at approximate map reference (AMR): 177203/278308).

30 June — At 1608 hours, some 80 people from the Lebanese side attacked a group of IDF soldiers with stones thrown in the vicinity of the Phatma Gate.

30 June — At 1614 hours two people wearing uniforms of an unknown type, one armed and the other carrying a camera, hurled objects at IDF soldiers. The incident took place at AMR: 184033/273552, BP14.

30 June — At 1708 hours four people on the Lebanese side of the border hurled objects at an IDF patrol and at civilian farms located on the Israeli side near the Phatma Gate.

30 June — At 1832 hours objects were hurled from the Lebanese side at IDF soldiers, stationed on the Israeli side of the border, just south of the Phatma Gate.

30 June — At 1915 hours four people from the Lebanese side threw objects at an IDF outpost on the Israeli side near the Phatma Gate.

30 June — At 1925 hours three people from the Lebanese side threw objects at Israeli soldiers on the Israeli side just south of the Phatma Gate.

30 June — At 1925 hours an IDF patrol was attacked with a barrage of objects hurled by five people on the Lebanese side (located at AMR: 202650/296814, B82).

30 June — At 1937 hours 45 people, some armed with slingshots, threw objects at IDF soldiers stationed on the Israeli side just south of the Phatma Gate.

30 June — At 2001 hours five Lebanese civilians hurled objects towards the Metula passage on the Israeli side on the northern border. At the same time three people on the Lebanese side came out of civilian vehicles four metres from the fence line and threw objects towards the border south of the Phatma Gate (located at AMR: 202322/295983).

1 July — At 0229 hours six individuals on the Lebanese side threw objects at IDF posts in the Metula passage in northern Israel.

1 July — At 1128 hours an IDF patrol car was barraged with stones (at about the point AMR: 201979/295747) from the Lebanese side of the border. At the same time, some six people threw objects into the Israeli side (in the area between AMRs: 202322/295983 and 201979/295747).

1 July — At 1252 hours 15 people on the Lebanese side of the border hurled objects towards IDF soldiers at the Phatma Gate.

1 July — At 1511 hours some 15 individuals from the Lebanese side threw objects at IDF post B-84 (located at AMR: 203073/297848).

1 July — At 1533 hours an individual on the Lebanese side pointed a gun at an IDF post across the border in the Metula passage, while three individuals hurled objects at the post.

1 July — At 1747 hours individuals on the Lebanese side threw objects at an IDF post in the Metula passage (B-85) on the Israeli side.

1 July — At 1803 hours several Lebanese civilians hurled objects across the border towards an IDF post in the Metula passage.

1 July — At 1909 hours several individuals from the Lebanese side attacked the light posts of IDF post B-84 in the Phatma Gate with a barrage of stones.

1 July — At 1940 hours eight individuals on the Lebanese side hurled objects at an IDF post in the Metula passage on the Israeli side.

2 July — At 0910 hours five individuals from the Lebanese side of the border attacked an IDF post with heavy objects that resulted in the explosion of a light pillar near the post. Subsequently, 30 additional people arrived at the location on the Lebanese side and continued to hurl dozens of objects at the post in repeated volleys.

2 July — At 0951 hours four uniformed individuals from the Lebanese side carrying Hizballah flags, along with several other individuals, hurled heavy objects at the Israeli side just south of the Phatma Gate.

2 July — At 1106 hours four people from the Lebanese side threw objects at an IDF observation point south of the Phatma Gate.

3 July — At 0935 hours two individuals from the Lebanese side threw objects at an IDF observation point 400 metres south of the Phatma Gate.

3 July — At 1015 hours two people on the Lebanese side hurled objects at an IDF observation point (B-85) near the Phatma Gate.

3 July — At 1054 hours 10 people pelted an IDF observation post located at Phatma Gate with a barrage of stones.

3 July — At 1114 hours two individuals from the Lebanese side hurled objects at Thai workers farming in land on the Israeli side just south of the Phatma Gate.

3 July — At 1200 hours three people from the Lebanese side of the border hurled objects at an IDF observation point near the Phatma Gate.

3 July — At 1425 hours 10 individuals from the Lebanese side attacked an IDF patrol car with stones near the Phatma Gate (B-85).

3 July — At 1540 hours eight individuals attacked an Israel IDF patrol car with stones thrust from the Lebanese side to the Israeli side. The incident took place at a point near the Phatma Gate.

3 July — At 1600 hours an individual from the Lebanese side threw objects at an IDF observation point (at B-85) adjacent to the Phatma Gate.

3 July — At 1704 hours a group from the Lebanese side hurled objects across the border resulting in damage to a light pole on the Israeli side of the Phatma Gate.

3 July — At 1757 hours a group from the Lebanese side hurled a street light pole onto the fence at the Phatma Gate.

3 July — At 1803 hours three individuals from the Lebanese side hurled objects at IDF soldiers on the Israeli side just south of the Phatma Gate.

3 July — At 1819 hours a group of IDF soldiers were attacked with stones, thrown by at least two individuals from the Lebanese side, beside the Phatma Gate.

3 July — At 1912 hours seven individuals from the Lebanese side hurled objects at IDF soldiers at the Phatma Gate. At the same time, seven individuals threw stones at IDF soldiers just south of the Phatma Gate.

3 July — At 1920 hours 10 people from the Lebanese side threw objects at IDF soldiers, at a point in the vicinity of the Phatma Gate.

3 July — At 2003 hours three individuals from the Lebanese side attempted to sabotage the fence at the Phatma Gate (at B-84).

4 July — At 1023 hours five people from the Lebanese side hurled objects at IDF soldiers just south of the Phatma Gate.

4 July — At 1038 hours an Israeli vehicle passing on the south side of the Phatma Gate was attacked with stones thrown from the Lebanese side.

4 July — At 1104 hours IDF soldiers were attacked with objects hurled from the Lebanese side near the Phatma Gate.

4 July — At 1115 hours two individuals from the Lebanese side threw stones at a Thai worker, injuring his leg, on an Israeli farm just south of the Phatma Gate.

4 July — At 1259 hours seven people from the Lebanese side hurled objects at IDF soldiers, in the vicinity of the Phatma Gate.

4 July — At 1314 hours several IDF soldiers were pelted with stones from the Lebanese side, at a point just south of the Phatma Gate.

4 July — At 1520 hours 30 to 40 people from the Lebanese side attacked IDF soldiers with a barrage of stones thrown across the border near the Phatma Gate.

4 July — At 1818 hours eight individuals from the Lebanese side hurled objects at IDF soldiers just south of the Phatma Gate (at B-84). The incident was filmed by an individual from the Lebanese side.

4 July — At 1942 hours 10 people from the Lebanese side hurled objects at the border fence at B-83 (the point located at AMR: 20295/29747).

4 July — At 2009 hours five individuals from the Lebanese side began throwing objects at IDF soldiers in the vicinity of the Phatma Gate. After 30 minutes United Nations armoured personnel carriers arrived and the throwing stopped. The attacks continued once the carrier left, injuring one IDF soldier on the Israeli side.

5 July — At 0937 hours IDF soldiers at the Phatma Gate were pelted with stones thrown from the Lebanese side.

5 July — At 1210 hours 3 individuals from the Lebanese side hurled objects at IDF soldiers, at a point near the Phatma Gate.

5 July — At 1219 hours IDF soldiers were attacked with stones thrown from the Lebanese side, at a point near the Phatma Gate.

5 July — At 1539 hours 60 individuals from the Lebanese side attacked a group of IDF soldiers just south of the Phatma Gate with a barrage of stones, injuring one person on the Israeli side.

United Nations A/54/937–S/2000/666

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
10 July 2000

Original: English

General Assembly
Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 63
Question of Cyprus

Security Council
Fifty-fifth year

Letter dated 10 July 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government and further to my letter dated 5 June 2000, I have the honour to draw your attention to new violations of the flight information region (FIR) of Nicosia and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force, recorded on 7, 11, 12, 19, 21 and 29 June, as well as on 3 and 5 July 2000.

On 7 June, one (1) C-160 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Karpasia (Cape of Apostolos Andreas), before exiting in a south-easterly direction. Early on the afternoon of the same day the aircraft violated once more international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Karpasia before exiting towards the FIR of Ankara.

On 11 June, forty-four (44) Turkish military aircraft (34 F-16 and 10 F-4), flying in 17 formations, entered the Nicosia FIR violating international air traffic regulations.

On 12 June, two (2) F-4 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR violating international air traffic regulations.

On 19 June, one (1) B-200 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Mesaoria, before landing at 1047 hours at the illegal airport of Tymbou in the occupied area of the Republic. The said aircraft departed the airport at 1215 hours, returning to the FIR of Ankara.

On 21 June, five (5) Turkish military aircraft (3 F-4 and 2 RF-4), flying in two formations, as well as one (1) C-130 entered the Nicosia FIR violating international air traffic regulations. One of the F-4 violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Karpasia (Cape of Apostolos Andreas), before exiting in a south-easterly direction. The two remaining F-4 aircraft, as well as the two RF-4 aircraft, violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying

00-52556 (E) 110700

over the areas of Karpasia (Cape of Apostolos Andreas) and Kormakitis, before exiting towards the Ankara FIR. The C-130 aircraft violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Karpasia (Cape of Apostolos Andreas), before exiting in a south-easterly direction.

On 29 June, one (1) F-4 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Karpasia (Cape of Apostolos Andreas), before exiting towards the FIR of Ankara.

On 3 July, two (2) Turkish military aircraft (1 Gulfstream and 1 C-160) entered the Nicosia FIR violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Mesaoria, before landing at the illegal airport of Tymbou in the occupied area of the Republic, from where they departed the same day, returning to the FIR of Ankara.

Even on 5 July, the very day of the resumption in Geneva of the proximity talks, three (3) Turkish military aircraft (1 C-160, 1 C-130 and 1 CN-235) entered the Nicosia FIR violating international air traffic regulations. The C-160 aircraft violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Karpasia (Cape of Apostolos Andreas), before exiting towards the FIR of Ankara. The C-130 and the CN-235 aircraft violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Mesaoria, before landing at the illegal airport of Tymbou in the occupied area of the Republic, from where they departed the same day, returning to the FIR of Ankara.

While strongly protesting these actions, which violate international law, as well as Security Council resolutions on Cyprus, and calling for their cessation, I would like, once more, to express the hope that the necessary positive attitude will be shown by Turkey, so that the current proximity talks that are taking place under your auspices, as well as all efforts for finding a just and viable solution of the Cyprus problem, on the basis of United Nations resolutions, will not be adversely affected.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 63, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Sotos **Zackheos**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations A/54/938–S/2000/688

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
13 July 2000

Original: English

General Assembly
Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 63
Question of Cyprus

Security Council
Fifty-fifth year

Letter dated 13 July 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 13 July 2000, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Aytuğ Plümer, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter, its annex and appendix, which contains a letter of Mr. Rauf R. Denktaş, President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, concerning the ongoing rearmament efforts of the Greek Cypriot administration, would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 63, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Şafak **Göktürk**
Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

00-53345 (E) 170700

Annex to the letter dated 13 July 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to convey herewith a copy of the letter dated 7 July 2000 addressed to you by Mr. Rauf R. Denktaş, President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, concerning the ongoing rearmament efforts of the Greek Cypriot administration.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 63, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Aytuğ **Plümer**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

Appendix to the letter dated 13 July 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am writing to inform you that, while we are discussing prospects for peaceful reconciliation between the two parties in Cyprus at the third round of the proximity talks being held in Geneva, Greek Cypriot rearmament activities continue, casting a shadow on the spirit and very purpose of the talks aimed at preparing the ground for meaningful negotiations leading to a peaceful settlement.

The latest and most serious development in this regard is the approval by the Greek Cypriot House of Representatives of an approximately $50 million expenditure for the purchase of the Milan 3 anti-tank missile system for the "National Guard". The system is known to be one of the most sophisticated anti-tank weapon systems in the world. The Greek Cypriot public and media have hailed the purchase as the biggest since the S-300 anti-aircraft missile system, which was diverted to Crete in the face of international pressure.

This development comes in the wake of statements by the Greek Cypriot Defence Minister, Mr. Socrates Hasikos, that the Greek Cypriot administration plans to purchase four more "Bell" helicopters, along with revelations that they also plan to include the Greek Cypriot "National Guard" in "Hermes", the mainland Greek Army's telecommunications network, as part of the 1993 joint military dogma between Greece and the Greek Cypriot administration. The statements were made by Mr. Hasikos shortly before he left for Greece to take delivery of a gunboat from Greece, as a gift of the Greek Government, amidst reports that the Greek Cypriot administration is trying to form the nucleus of a Greek Cypriot Navy.

Previously, Mr. Hasikos had declared that the Greek Cypriot rearmament campaign would continue "despite the ongoing proximity talks", because the Greek Cypriot side "does not have the luxury of taking a pause in its rearmament efforts". In an interview issued in the Greek Cypriot daily "Politis" of 27 February 2000, Mr. Hasikos indicated that "the current process of proximity talks and the expected third round would not have an effect on their rearmament efforts". He also boasted that, "from an operational standpoint, the joint military doctrine has reached its peak".

We believe that the Security Council should not only take note of these serious developments, which do not augur well for the success of the proximity process, but should also urge the Greek Cypriot side to stop its arming frenzy.

The fact that among the countries that sell weapons to the Greek Cypriot side there are permanent members of the Security Council is particularly disappointing for us, as it is not compatible with the efforts to make progress towards a peaceful settlement. I, therefore, request that you do what is necessary in this regard in the interest of the success of your efforts and peaceful reconciliation in Cyprus.

(*Signed*) Rauf R. **Denktaş**
President

United Nations A/54/939–S/2000/689

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
13 July 2000

Original: English

General Assembly
Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 43
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Fifty-fifth year

Letter dated 13 July 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I wish to reiterate the commitment by Israel to correct what the United Nations considered to be infrastructure violations by Israel of the line of withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon.

This commitment stems from the desire of the Government of Israel to cooperate fully with the United Nations in ensuring the integrity of the "line of withdrawal", and is based upon Israel's understanding that there are no further claims regarding infrastructure locations along the line.

The Government of Israel trusts that the Secretary-General, as well as the officials of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), will be no less attentive to the constantly increasing number of violations of the line by Lebanon, as detailed in my letter to you dated 6 July 2000 (A/54/936-S/2000/661), and will take up these violations with the Government of Lebanon. Attached, in the annex to the present letter, is an updated list of these violations.

In addition, I wish to draw your attention to several territorial encroachments, in which extensive tracts of land on the Israeli side of the line are being used by Lebanese citizens for agricultural and other purposes, despite the clear fact that these areas are within Israeli territory, as indicated by the United Nations map of the "line of withdrawal" as presented to Israel on 6 July 2000. A list of these infractions is also attached in the annex to this letter. We trust that the Secretariat and the Security Council will duly take note of the above.

With the corrections made by Israel at the above-noted infrastructure locations along the line, the Government of Israel considers that there can be no reason for delaying the full implementation of Security Council resolution 425 (1978), including the deployment of UNIFIL in southern Lebanon, to assist the Government of Lebanon in ensuring the return of its effective authority in the area and in restoring international peace and security.

It should be recalled that the Secretary-General, in his report (S/2000/590), noted commitments expressed to him by the Government of Lebanon regarding

00-53331 (E) 140700

deploying Lebanon's armed forces "as soon as I have confirmed Israel's withdrawal in compliance with Security Council resolution 425 (1978)" (para. 38). At the conclusion of the report, the Secretary-General did confirm Israel's withdrawal as specified (para. 40). Moreover, the Security Council, in its presidential statement of 18 June 2000 (S/PRST/2000/21), endorsed the Secretary-General's confirmation, and called upon the Government of Lebanon "to proceed with the deployment of the Lebanese armed forces as soon as possible, with the assistance of UNIFIL, into the Lebanese territory recently vacated by Israel".

Israel has completed the withdrawal pursuant to resolution 425 (1978), as confirmed by the Secretary-General and the Security Council. It is now incumbent on the other parties, chiefly the Government of Lebanon, to fulfil their commitments pursuant to the resolution.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 43, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yehuda **Lancry**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex to the letter dated 13 July 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Lebanese territorial encroachments

Following is a partial list of instances of Lebanese encroachments on Israeli territory, involving Lebanese appropriation of land that is decidedly on the Israeli side of the withdrawal line. In particular, Lebanese individuals have cultivated Israeli territory in a number of locations on the Israeli side, among them:

- From the vicinity of ID69 towards ID71: along more than 800 metres and up to at least 220 metres deep.
- From ID73 towards ID72: along more than 650 metres and up to 30 metres deep.
- Between ID96 and ID98: along more than 400 metres and up to along 500 metres deep.
- North and south of ID104: along about 300 metres up to at least 50 metres deep.
- Between ID110 and ID111: along more than 150 metres up to 100 metres deep.

Additional Lebanese violations — updated

5 July 2000 — At 15:50 hours some 60 individuals from the Lebanese side of the border attacked a group of the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) on the Israeli side, just south of the Phatma Gate, with a barrage of stones.

5 July — At 18:40 hours 10 individuals from the Lebanese side pelted a group of IDF soldiers on the Israeli side, in the vicinity of the Phatma Gate, with heavy objects.

5 July — At 18:44 hours 20 people from the Lebanese side attacked a group of IDF soldiers just south of the Phatma Gate with a barrage of stones.

5 July — At 20:17 hours approximately five individuals from the Lebanese side hurled objects at IDF soldiers just south of the Phatma Gate.

5 July — At 22:44 hours six individuals from the Lebanese side threw objects at IDF soldiers on the Israeli side, in the vicinity of the Phatma Gate.

6 July — At 12:57 hours five buses and four private cars from the Lebanese side drove to a point on the border opposite an IDF observation post near the Phatma Gate. Individuals stepped out of the vehicles and hurled objects towards the border fence.

6 July — At 13:12 hours some 200 people from the Lebanese side gathered near the border fence in the vicinity of the Phatma Gate and hurled stones at the fence.

6 July — At 17:57 hours individuals from the Lebanese side threw objects at an IDF observation post on the Israeli side just south of the Phatma Gate.

6 July — At 19:18 hours some 10 to 12 individuals from the Lebanese side hurled heavy objects at an IDF observation post and at a group of IDF soldiers on the Israeli side just south of the Phatma Gate.

6 July — At 21:59 hours individuals from the Lebanese side pelted an IDF observation post with stones, in the vicinity of the Phatma Gate.

7 July — At 10:25 hours some 20 people from the Lebanese side hurled objects at an IDF observation point just south of the Phatma Gate.

7 July — At 11:42 hours some 50 individuals from the Lebanese side threw objects at an IDF observation point near the Phatma Gate.

7 July — At 12:58 hours some 40 people from the Lebanese hurled stones at an IDF observation point near the Phatma Gate.

7 July — At 14:40 hours individuals from the Lebanese side (AMR: 20304/29868) threw objects at an IDF observation point at the Phatma Gate, then joined a larger crowd of individuals on the Lebanese side hurling objects across the border.

7 July — At 14:55 hours some 200 people from the Lebanese side hurled heavy objects at Israeli soldiers on the Israeli side in the vicinity of the Phatma Gate.

7 July — At 19:45 hours civilian workers on the Israeli side just south of the Phatma Gate were attacked with stones hurled from the Lebanese side.

8 July — At 10:23 hours two armed individuals from the Lebanese side, carrying an equipment belt and visible guns, tried to open a gate in the border fence 100 metres east of B-17 (AMR: 17063/27827).

8 July — At 10:31 hours four individuals from the Lebanese side hurled heavy objects at a group of IDF soldiers in the vicinity of the Phatma Gate.

8 July — At 10:55 hours several individuals from the Lebanese side pelted Israeli soldiers with stones, at an area 2.5 kilometres south-east of the village of Shuba.

8 July — At 12:03 hours 15 people from the Lebanese side hurled objects at IDF soldiers near the Phatma Gate.

8 July — At 12:34 hours a large pipe was thrown by a number of individuals from the Lebanese side at IDF soldiers at the Phatma Gate.

8 July — At 14:45 hours an individual from the Lebanese side inflicted damage on the border fence 250 metres from the Phatma Gate (B-85).

8 July — At 15:01 hours some 10 individuals from the Lebanese side hurled heavy objects at IDF soldiers just south of the Phatma Gate.

8 July — At 18:03 hours 10 individuals from the Lebanese side threw objects at IDF soldiers near the Phatma Gate.

8 July — At 18:06 hours an armed person from the Lebanese side, wearing a uniform and brandishing weapons, threw objects at the border fence at BP-14 (AMR: 183988/273487) and damaged IDF equipment in the area.

8 July — At 22:34 hours a group of IDF soldiers in the vicinity of the Phatma Gate were pelted with stones thrown from the Lebanese side.

8 July — At 23:52 hours IDF soldiers who were repairing the fence at the Phatma Gate, that had been damaged earlier by individuals from the Lebanese side, were attacked with stones thrown from a rooftop in the village of Kile on the Lebanese side.

9 July — At 1:15 hours IDF soldiers at the Phatma Gate were pelted with objects hurled from the Lebanese side.

9 July — At 7:07 hours IDF soldiers just south of the Phatma Gate were pelted with bags thrown from the Lebanese side.

9 July — Between 10:27 and 16:32 hours 50 people from the Lebanese side hurled heavy objects at IDF soldiers just south of the Phatma Gate. One individual attempted to cut the border fence.

9 July — At 11:32 hours an individual from the Lebanese side penetrated into Israeli territory two kilometres east of the village of Rajar, where there is no border fence, then retreated back to Lebanon.

9 July — At 12:49 hours several individuals from the Lebanese side threw objects into Israel two kilometres east of the village of Rajar.

9 July — At 13:33 hours a group of IDF soldiers were pelted with stones thrown from the Lebanese side, in the vicinity of the Phatma Gate.

9 July — At 13:42 hours five individuals from the Lebanese side hurled objects at IDF soldiers just south of the Phatma Gate.

9 July — At 14:59 hours individuals from the Lebanese side threw objects over the border just south of BP-37 (AMR: 201503/295452).

9 July — At 16:32 hours an individual attempted to cut the border fence just south of the Phatma Gate (AMR: 20323/29778).

9 July — At 19:23 hours individuals from the Lebanese side threw objects at the border fence at B-26 (AMR: 177093/278733).

12 July — At 11:08 hours 15 individuals from the Lebanese side pelted an IDF observation point with stones in the vicinity of the Phatma Gate.

12 July — At 13:19 hours IDF soldiers at an observation point in the vicinity of the Phatma Gate were attacked with objects hurled by four individuals from the Lebanese side.

12 July — At 17:00 hours seven individuals from the Lebanese side attacked an IDF observation point in the vicinity of the Phatma gate with metal rods.

12 July — At 19:07 hours four individuals from the Lebanese side hurled heavy objects at IDF soldiers and at an IDF observation point near the Phatma Gate.

12 July — At 20:03 hours one armed individual from the Lebanese side joined several others in hurling objects across the border to the Israeli side (at location AMR: 17063/27827-W119).

United Nations A/54/940–S/2000/700

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
18 July 2000

Original: English

General Assembly
Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 43
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Fifty-fifth year

Letter dated 17 July 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I wish to refer to the letter dated 11 July 2000 addressed to you by the Permanent Representative of Lebanon (S/2000/674) concerning the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

Now that Israel has withdrawn from Lebanon, thereby fulfilling its obligations under Security Council resolution 425 (1978), it is incumbent upon the other parties, chiefly the Government of Lebanon, to fulfil their remaining obligations under the resolution. These include the restoration of international peace and security and the bringing about of the return of the effective authority of the Government of Lebanon in the area. These provisions of resolution 425 (1978) require, therefore, that Lebanon deploy its armed forces and disarm the militia groups operating in southern Lebanon, including the terrorist group Hizballah. They also entail putting an end to the increasing wave of violations of Israeli sovereignty that Lebanon is now hosting: from cross-border attacks targeting Israelis, among them unarmed civilians, along with repeated attempts to sabotage and penetrate the border fence, to encroachments onto territory clearly on the Israeli side of the line of withdrawal.

It should be recalled that the Secretary-General, in his report of 16 June 2000 (S/2000/590), noted commitments expressed to him by the Government of Lebanon regarding deploying Lebanon's armed forces "as soon as I have confirmed Israel's withdrawal in compliance with Security Council resolution 425 (1978)" (para. 38). At the conclusion of the report, the Secretary-General did confirm Israel's withdrawal as specified (para. 40). Moreover, the Security Council, in its presidential statement of 18 June 2000 (S/PRST/2000/21), endorsed the Secretary-General's confirmation, and called upon the Government of Lebanon "to proceed with the deployment of the Lebanese armed forces as soon as possible, with the assistance of UNIFIL, into the Lebanese territory recently vacated by Israel".

In addition, Lebanon should be called upon to fulfil its obligation to act with restraint and fairness towards members of the South Lebanese Army.

00-53638 (E) 180700

I wish to recall the appeal of Prime Minister Ehud Barak to the Government of Lebanon following Israel's withdrawal, in a special session of the Knesset, held on 25 May 2000, in the northern Israeli city of Kiryat Shemona, where terrorists had rained hundreds of Katyusha rockets from Lebanon over the years: "I appeal to the Government and people of Lebanon," Mr. Barak said, "I appeal to you, President Emile Lahoud, Israel extends it hand towards peace out of a vision of a joint future better for the children of both peoples. Let's exploit the moment, let's talk peace".

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 43, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ambassador Aaron **Jacob**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

United Nations A/54/941

General Assembly

Distr.: General
8 July 2000

Original: English

Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 49 (b)
United Nations reform: measures and proposals: the Millennium Assembly of the United Nations

Letter dated 30 June 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Slovakia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you a letter dated 30 June 2000 from the Minister of the Environment of the Slovak Republic, László Miklós, in his capacity as the President of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, concerning the Malmö Ministerial Declaration adopted at the inaugural meeting of the Global Ministerial Environment Forum, which was held from 29 to 31 May 2000 at Malmö, Sweden (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 49 (b)

(*Signed*) Igor **Vencel**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

00-52335 (E) 190700

Annex to the letter dated 30 June 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Slovakia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Letter dated 30 June 2000 from the Minister of the Environment of Slovakia addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to write to you to inform you of the successful outcome of the inaugural meeting of the Global Ministerial Environment Forum, which was held from 29 to 31 May 2000 in Malmö, Sweden.

The Forum was established by the General Assembly in response to your proposals for reform in the work of the United Nations in the areas of environment and human settlements, with the purpose of enabling the world's environment ministers to meet annually to review important and emerging environmental policy matters. Owing to the high importance accorded to environmental matters, there was an unprecedentedly large attendance at the Forum, with the overwhelming majority of delegations headed at the ministerial level.

I would, in particular, like to draw your attention to the adoption of the Malmö Ministerial Declaration, which contains the collective views of ministers of the environment on the major environmental issues facing the international community in the new millennium.

The Global Ministerial Environment Forum was particularly concerned that these matters be brought to the attention of the forthcoming Millennium Assembly, and in particular to the Millennium Summit, in accordance with the importance you have attached to the environment in your report to the General Assembly entitled "We the peoples: the role of the United Nations in the twenty-first century" (A/54/2000). I was therefore requested by the Forum to forward the Malmö Ministerial Declaration to you, with the request that it be issued as a document of the Millennium Assembly (see appendix).

(*Signed*) László **Miklós**
Minister of Environment and
President of the Governing Council

Appendix

Malmö Ministerial Declaration adopted by the Global Ministerial Environment Forum, held at Malmö, Sweden, from 29 to 31 May 2000

We, Ministers of Environment and heads of delegation meeting in Malmö, Sweden from 29 to 31 May 2000, on the occasion of the first Global Ministerial Environment Forum, held in pursuance of United Nations General Assembly resolution 53/242 of 28 July 1999 to enable the world's environment ministers to gather to review important and emerging environmental issues and to chart the course for the future:

Recalling the Stockholm Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment 1/ and the Rio Declaration of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, 2/ the Declaration of Barbados on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States 3/ as well as the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, 4/

Deeply concerned that, despite the many successful and continuing efforts of the international community since the Stockholm Conference, and some progress having been achieved, the environment and the natural resource base that supports life on Earth continue to deteriorate at an alarming rate,

Reaffirming the importance of the speedy implementation of the political and legal commitments entered into by the international community, in particular at the Rio Conference,

1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.73.II.A.14), part one, chap. I.

2/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8), vol. I, annex I.

3/ Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (A/CONF.167/9), annex I.

4/ Governing Council decision 19/1, annex.

Convinced that urgent and renewed efforts are required to be undertaken by all countries in a spirit of international solidarity, and recognizing, inter alia, the principle of common but differentiated responsibility as contained in the Rio Principles to manage the environment so as to promote sustainable development for the benefit of present and future generations,

Conscious that the root causes of global environmental degradation are embedded in social and economic problems such as pervasive poverty, unsustainable production and consumption patterns, inequity in distribution of wealth, and the debt burden,

Also conscious that success in combating environmental degradation is dependent on the full participation of all actors in society, an aware and educated population, respect for ethical and spiritual values and cultural diversity, and protection of indigenous knowledge,

Aware that the 10-year review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21 to be conducted in 2002 will provide a further opportunity for the international community to take action to implement its commitments and to strengthen international cooperation urgently required to address the challenges of sustainable development in the twenty-first century,

Convinced that the Millennium Summit of the fifty-fifth session of the United Nations General Assembly provides a unique opportunity to address at the highest level the role of the United Nations in the field of sustainable development, and noting in this regard the proposals of the Secretary-General of the United Nations as contained in his report "We the peoples: the role of the United Nations in the twenty-first century", 5/ which will serve as the basis of discussion at the Summit,

Determined to contribute to this historic endeavour from an environmental perspective, and having requested the President of the Governing Council to bring the following matters to the attention of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly, the Millennium Assembly,

Declare that:

Major environmental challenges of the twenty-first century

1. The year 2000 marks a defining moment in the efforts of the international community to ensure that the growing trends of environmental degradation that threaten the sustainability of the planet are arrested and reversed. Hence there is an urgent need for reinvigorated international cooperation based on common concerns and a spirit of international partnership and solidarity.

2. There is an alarming discrepancy between commitments and action. Goals and targets agreed by the international community in relation to sustainable development, such as the adoption of national sustainable development strategies and increased support to developing countries, must be implemented in a timely fashion. The mobilization of domestic and international resources, including development

---

5/ A/54/2000.

assistance, far beyond current levels is vital to the success of this endeavour.

3. The evolving framework of international environmental law and the development of national law provide a sound basis for addressing the major environmental threats of the day. It must be underpinned by a more coherent and coordinated approach among international environmental instruments. We must also recognize the central importance of environmental compliance, enforcement and liability, and promote the observation of the precautionary approach as contained in the Rio Principles, 2/ and other important policy tools, as well as capacity-building.

4. The Global Environment Outlook 2000 of the United Nations Environment Programme provides a compelling assessment of the serious nature of the environmental threats faced by the international community. Special attention should be paid to unsustainable consumption patterns among the richer segments in all countries, particularly developed countries. Environmental stewardship is lagging behind economic and social development, and a rapidly growing population is placing increased pressures on the environment.

5. Environmental threats resulting from the accelerating trends of urbanization and the development of megacities, the tremendous risk of climate change, the freshwater crisis and its consequences for food security and the environment, the unsustainable exploitation and depletion of biological resources, drought and desertification, and uncontrolled deforestation, increasing environmental emergencies, the risk to human health and the environment from hazardous chemicals, and land-based sources of pollution, are all issues that need to be addressed.

6. Opportunities however exist that can redress this situation. Technological innovation and the emergence of new resource-efficient technologies, in which the private sector plays a major role, provide a source of great hope and increased opportunities to avoid the environmentally destructive practices of the past, including through clean technologies.

7. To confront the underlying causes of environmental degradation and poverty, we must integrate environmental considerations in the mainstream of decision-making. We must also intensify our efforts in developing preventive action and a concerted response, including national environmental governance and the international rule of law, awareness-raising and education, and harness the power of information technology to this end. All actors involved must work together in the interest of a sustainable future.

8. It is necessary that the environmental perspective is taken into account in both the design and the assessment of macro-economic policy-making, as well as practices of government and multilateral lending and credit institutions such as export credit agencies.

9. The trends of globalization in the world economy, with the attendant environmental risks and opportunities, require international institutions to adopt new approaches and to engage the major actors involved in globalization in new ways. We should encourage a balanced and integrated approach to trade and environment policies in pursuit of sustainable development, in accordance with the decision of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its eighth session.

10. The role and responsibility of nations based on the Rio Principles, as well as the role and responsibility of the main actors including Governments, the private sector and civil society, must be emphasized in addressing the environmental challenges of the twenty-first century. Governments are the primary agents in this process, whose actions are vital in implementing United Nations environment-related instruments since Stockholm, institutional capacity-building and strengthened international cooperation.

The private sector and the environment

11. The private sector has emerged as a global actor that has a significant impact on environmental trends through its investment and technology decisions. In this regard, Governments have a crucial role in creating an enabling environment. The institutional and regulatory capacities of Governments to interact with the private sector should be enhanced. A greater commitment by the private sector should be pursued to engender a new culture of environmental accountability through the application of the polluter-pays principle, environmental performance indicators and reporting, and the establishment of a precautionary approach in investment and technology decisions. This approach must be linked to the development of cleaner and more resource-efficient technologies for a life cycle economy and efforts to facilitate the transfer of environmentally sound technologies.

12. The potential of the new economy to contribute to sustainable development should be further pursued, particularly in the areas of information technology, biology and biotechnology. The ethical and social implications must be carefully considered. There must be recognition of the public interest in knowledge related to biodiversity, including the interest of indigenous and local communities. A corporate ethic guided by public interest should be promoted.

13. The Global Compact established by the Secretary-General of the United Nations with the private sector provides an excellent vehicle for the development of a constructive engagement with the private sector. UNEP should continue to enhance its engagement and collaboration with the private sector and consider the relation between foreign direct investment and the environment, with a view to minimizing negative environmental implications.

Civil society and the environment

14. Civil society plays a critically important role in addressing environmental issues. The role, capabilities and involvement of civil society organizations has seen a substantial increase over recent years, which highlights the need for national Governments and for UNEP and international organizations to enhance the engagement of these organizations in their work on environmental matters.

15. Civil society has found new and effective modes of expression of popular sentiments and concerns. It provides a powerful agent for promoting shared environmental purpose and values. Civil society plays an important role in bringing emerging environmental issues to the attention of policy makers, raising public awareness, promoting innovative ideas and approaches, and promoting transparency as well as non-corrupt activities in environmental decision-making.

16. The role of civil society at all levels should be strengthened through freedom of access to environmental information to all, broad participation in environmental decision-making, as well as access to justice on environmental issues. Governments should promote conditions to facilitate the ability of all parts of society to have a voice and to play an active role in creating a sustainable future.

17. Science provides the basis for environmental decision-making. There is a need for intensified research, fuller engagement of the scientific community and increased scientific cooperation on emerging environmental issues, as well as improved avenues for communication between the scientific community, decision makers and other stakeholders.

18. We must pay special attention to threats to cultural diversity and traditional knowledge, in particular of indigenous and local communities, which may be posed by globalization. In this context we welcome the proclamation by the United Nations General Assembly of the year 2001 as the International Year of Dialogue among Civilizations.

19. Greater emphasis must be given to the gender perspective in decision-making concerning the management of the environment and natural resources.

20. There is a need for independent and objective media at all levels in enhancing awareness and developing shared environmental values in global society. The media can serve the cause of sustainable development by identifying emerging issues, awareness-raising and promoting appropriate action.

The 2002 review of UNCED

21. The 2002 review of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) should be undertaken by an international conference at the summit level. The objective should not be to renegotiate Agenda 21, which remains valid, but to inject a new spirit of cooperation and urgency based on agreed actions in the common quest for sustainable development. In this regard, the ratification of all environmental conventions and protocols, in particular those related to climate, desertification, biosafety and chemicals, should be urgently pursued by Governments.

22. Governments and UNEP have to play a major role in the preparation for the 2002 review of UNCED at the regional and global levels and ensure that the environmental dimension of sustainable development is fully considered on the basis of a broad assessment of the state of the global environment. The preparations for the conference should be accelerated.

23. The 2002 conference should aim at addressing the major challenges to sustainable development, and in particular the pervasive effects of the burden of poverty on a large proportion of the Earth's inhabitants, counterposed against excessive and wasteful consumption and inefficient resource use that perpetuate the vicious circle of environmental degradation and increasing poverty.

24. The 2002 conference should review the requirements for a greatly strengthened institutional

structure for international environmental governance based on an assessment of future needs for an institutional architecture that has the capacity to effectively address wide-ranging environmental threats in a globalizing world. UNEP's role in this regard should be strengthened and its financial base broadened and made more predictable.

Conclusion

25. At the dawn of this new century, we have at our disposal the human and material resources to achieve sustainable development, not as an abstract concept but as a concrete reality. The unprecedented developments in production and information technologies, the emergence of a younger generation with a clear sense of optimism, solidarity and values, women increasingly aware and with an enhanced and active role in society - all point to the emergence of a new consciousness. We can decrease poverty by half by 2015 without degrading the environment, we can ensure environmental security through early warning, we can better integrate environmental considerations in economic policy, we can better coordinate legal instruments and we can realize a vision of a world without slums. We commit ourselves to realizing this common vision.